

Title: Meeting with Pope Tawadros II, the Holy Week and Easter

Author: Cornelis Hulsman

Date: April 16, 2014

Dr. Enan Galaly, having the Knight of Dannebrog title bestowed by Her Majesty Queen Margrethe II of Denmark, Ambassador of Historical Relations between Denmark and the Middle East and chairman of the Advisory Council for the International Association of University Presidents worldwide, and Cornelis Hulsman, Editor-in-chief of Arab-West Report, were blessed on March 5 by Pope Tawadros II. The meeting was about the importance of the route of the Holy Family in Egypt. Egypt was blessed by the Holy Family, the pope said, and so are visits to locations that were blessed by the Holy Family. The pope is in contact with the Ministry of Tourism about efforts to promote pilgrimage.



Dr. Enan Galaly greeting HH. Pope Tawadros

Cornelis Hulsman greeting HH. Pope Tawadros

Dr. Enan Galaly pointed to the Holy Family website he had sponsored, www.holyfamilyegypt.com. Cornelis Hulsman presented the pope with one of the last copies of the book "Be Thou There; the Holy Family's Journey in Egypt," AUC press 2001, which is unfortunately sold out. The pope welcomes efforts to prepare a new book. Cornelis Hulsman also presented a copy of the Maadi Messenger of March 2014 that was dedicated to the Monastery of St. Dimyana.

The approximately one hour meeting was impressive. The pope was soft spoken and attentive. Father Angelos, his personal secretary, attended the meeting.





Pope Tawadros' Consecration

Pope Tawadros succeeded the late Pope Shenouda III as leader of the Coptic Orthodox Church. He took office on November 18, 2012. Pope Tawadros was born on November 4 in Mansoura and studied pharmacy in Alexandria. He obtained his degree in 1975 and managed a state-owned pharmaceutical factory in Alexandria before he joined monastic life in the Monastery of St. Bishoy. He was ordained a monk-priest in 1989 and on June 15, 1997, he was consecrated a general bishop by Pope Shenouda III and served as assistant to Metropolitan Pachomius in Beheira.

Just before the Holy Week, Pope Tawadros made the Holy Chrism for the first time since his ordination and for the 38th time since the time of St. Mark. The Holy Chrism is an anointing mixture of virgin olive oil and herbs. Chrismation or Holy Myron is one of the seven sacraments of the Coptic Orthodox Church and is used to anoint following a baptism, or to anoint the sick.

The Holy Week starts with Palm Sunday and is the most important week in the Coptic Orthodox Church. It is a week full of prayers and reflection on the suffering and death of Jesus Christ culminating in Easter, the day of the resurrection.

Because the Coptic Orthodox Church uses a different calendar from that of Western churches the Orthodox and Western churches usually celebrate Easter on different days but this year Easter is celebrated by all churches on the same day.



We thus would like to use this occasion to wish our Christian friends, Orthodox and non-Orthodox, a blessed Holy Week and Easter.